

BREAK IN U. S. RELATIONS WITH GERMANY DISCUSSED BY WILSON AND HIS CABINET

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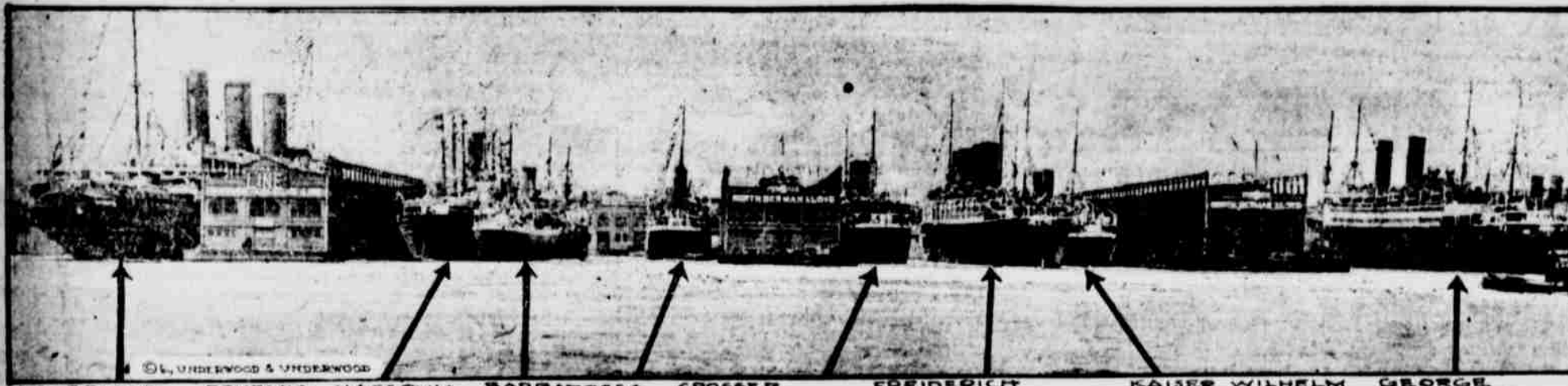
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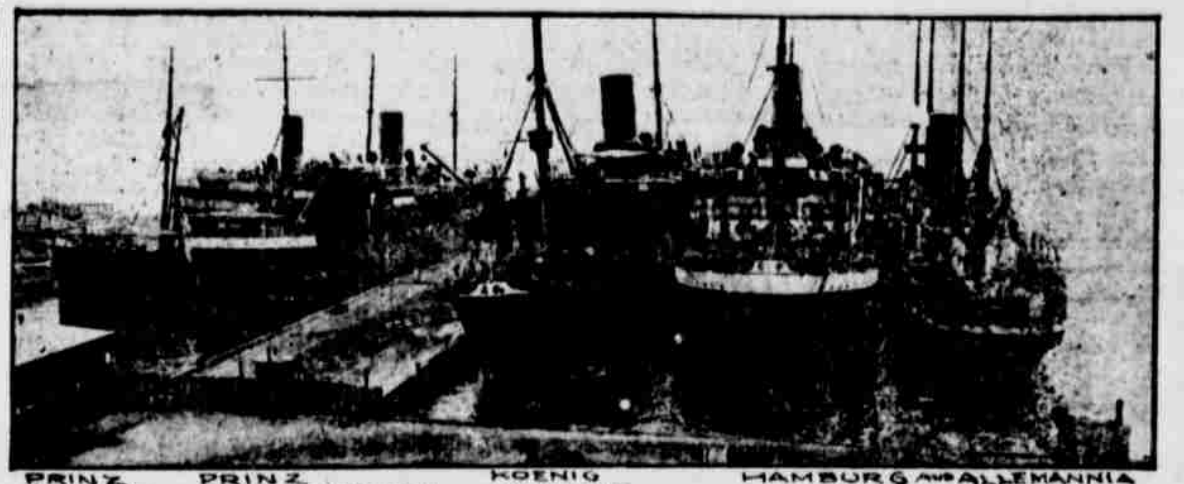
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VATERLAND BOHEMIA NASSOVIA BARBAROSSA GROSSER KURLEURST FREIDRICH DER GROSSE KAISER WILHELM II GEORGE WASHINGTON PRINZ JOACHIM PRINZ EITELFRIEDRICH KOENIG WILHELM II HAMBURG & WALLEMANIA AT 155th ST. N. RIVER.

GIANT GERMAN LINERS INTERNED AT HOBOKEN AND 130TH STREET, MANHATTAN.



PRINZ JOACHIM PRINZ EITELFRIEDRICH KOENIG WILHELM II HAMBURG & WALLEMANIA AT 155th ST. N. RIVER.

THERE WAS A 'LEAK' ON NOTE, DECLARES COUNSEL WHIPPLE

Says Writer of Connolly Despatch to Hutton Must Have Seen President's Message.

DENIES BY OPERATORS

Questions Hint Resume Came by Word of Mouth, Phone or Mail.

After the closing of the New York sessions of the House Rules Committee investigating the alleged leak of the President's peace note, this afternoon, Sherman L. Whipple, the committee's counsel, dictated the following statement:

"The significant fact is established that we find in a broker's office in New York, on the day before the President's peace note was published, at an hour considerably earlier than the time it was given by Secretary Lansing to reporters, a statement of the substance of the note itself and of its most important purpose, couched in language characteristic of a skilled and well-trained mind, showing conclusive evidence that the writer must have not only seen, but thoroughly comprehended the President's note and the purpose of its sending."

The statement of Joseph Becker, the operator on the Washington private telegraph wire of the E. F. Hutton & Co. firm, that he never received the message which E. A. Connolly, Hutton's Washington correspondent, swore he sent to Hutton about 1 o'clock Dec. 20, was corroborated by five other operators who said they knew nothing of such a message. The five included the men who relayed Becker whenever he left his wire for any cause.

A. M. Packard, the first operator examined, admitted Hutton had "bawled out" Becker in the brokerage office to-day in the presence of the other operators for his testimony yesterday. Hutton told Becker, according to Packard, that "no operator could say whether he had or had not received a certain message more than a month ago."

"Most of the other operators, G. W. Conkling, John P. Hummel, M. W. Malby, Christopher Shea, admitted having heard Hutton scold Becker. Congressman Campbell of Kansas, in questioning P. M. Dick, an expert on values and customers' adviser of the Hutton firm, charged that a digest of the President's note had been in Hutton's office from one to four days before Dec. 20, and intimated that certain persons who knew of it might have been trading on the short side of the market away from the Hutton house.

In questioning the operators and other witnesses, Campbell and Whipple explained that there was always the possibility that the "leak" might have come from Washington by special delivery letter, by word of mouth, by cipher, telegram or by telephone several days before the Washington broker, Connolly, partner of R. W. Holling, the President's brother-in-law, swore he made it up out of "gossip on the spur of the moment" and sent it to New York.

Whipple took pains to ask Dick if Connolly or any of his associates had been in the Hutton office immediately before Dec. 20.

The committee will meet in Washington to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

5,000 SWITCHMEN THREATEN STRIKE ON 18 RAILROADS

Authority Given at Chicago for Walkout Unless Grievances Are Adjusted.

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—The police, late this afternoon, announced that the gas explosion and subsequent fire that wrecked a tenement block at 1 o'clock this morning, caused the loss of twenty-eight lives and the serious injury of twenty-one persons. Two of the dead who have been identified have been taken from the ruins and twenty-six who are missing are given up for dead, either from fire or cold, the thermometer registering ten degrees below zero.

The scene of the tragedy is at West Fourteenth Street and Newbury Avenue.

Investigations already under way indicate that there were leaks in the gas pipes in the tenement basement and that the gas company, repeatedly notified, had sent men who repaired the leak with adhesive tape, Morris Feldman, the janitor, said the odor of gas in the building was overpowering yesterday, but a gas company mechanic who came in response to a summons said the job was too big for him to tackle alone and left without doing anything.

It is believed that the explosion was caused by a tenant who searched for the leak with lighted matches.

The explosion rocked the city for miles around and demolished adjoining and neighboring buildings.

Because of the thick sheathing of ice which covered the ruins the firemen expected to take out nothing but corpses after they had extinguished the fire and started the rescue work. Soon they encountered pockets of grottoes formed by timbers in which people were alive. The first to be taken out were two women and two girls who were sent to the County Hospital. They will recover.

The barking of a dog guided the firemen to Al Johnson, one of the tenants who was under a pile of debris. The dog, Johnson's pet, was uninjured, but Johnson was seriously bruised. Rescuers working in the ruins this afternoon heard shouts and cries and estimate that there are half a dozen or more persons, conscious and only slightly injured, in the debris.

In the building across the street from the wrecked structure fire also followed the explosion, and the occupants fled in their night clothing to the rear porches. These collapsed, hurling the tenants to the ground.

INDIANA "DRY" BILL PASSED.

Amendments Not Opposed Only to Be Ratified in House.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 2.—The Senate to-day passed the Wright Prohibition bill 35 to 11. The measure already had passed the House, but must go back to the House for ratification of several amendments, to which there is no opposition.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The House to-day passed, without roll call, its first Prohibition bill—the one that makes Alaska "bone dry" Jan. 1, 1918. It has already passed the Senate.

(Racing Entries on Page 14.)

28 DIE; 21 INJURED IN GAS EXPLOSION FOLLOWED BY FIRE

Leak From Main Under Chicago Tenement Causes Shock Felt for Miles.

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800 ARMED MEN NOW WATCH GERMAN SHIPS HELD HERE

"They'll Shoot if Orders Are Disobeyed," Declares Collector Malone.

GUARD AGAINST PLOT.

Police Ready to Go to Aid of Neutrality Squad if They Are Needed.

Collector of the Port Dudley Field Malone said to-day that the neutrality force under him, had been increased from 200 to 800 men. When asked if he had received any word from Washington to the effect that an attempt would be made to destroy the German vessels in port, if trouble were to come between the Central Allies and this country, Mr. Malone said that he could not discuss questions concerning the neutrality of the harbor.

The mission of the neutrality force, he said, was to watch the ships, with the view that the law must be obeyed and that no harm should come to German vessels. If any situation with which the neutrality force could not cope should arise, the police were ready to go to their aid. Asked if his men were armed, he said they certainly were.

"Would they shoot, in case their orders were disobeyed?" he was asked.

"They will do their duty," was his answer.

TOWER SEES WAR PERIL, BUT SAYS "KEEP COOL"

Former Ambassador to Germany Advises Public to "Let Washington Attend to It."

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 2.—Charles Maguire Tower, former United States Ambassador to Germany, believes the U. boat crisis brought about by Germany will result in war.

"It is war," he said, "but it is not a matter the public should discuss. Keep cool and let Washington attend to it."

OHIO CALLS ON ALL MEN TO STAND BEHIND WILSON

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 2.—The Ohio House of Representatives to-day, by unanimous vote, adopted resolution addressed to President Wilson declaring that it viewed with alarm the present crisis and calling upon every citizen of the United States to "stand behind the President as one man."

Four Ships Leave Philadelphia for "Barred Zone."

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 2.—Four trans-Atlantic steamers sailed from this port to-day, bound direct for the prohibited German U-boat zone. They are: The Roden (Swedish), for Narvik; the Redcliffe (British), for Gibraltar; the Cardiff Hall (British), for Plymouth; the Carlisle (Swedish), for Alhus.

(Racing Entries on Page 14.)

JAPAN IS WARLIKE AGAINST IDAHO BILL CURTAILING RIGHTS

Senator Borah Notifies Legislature of His State Force of Arms May Be Resorted To.

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 2.—The State Department at Washington, it became known to-day, has sent telegrams to members of the Legislature and to Gov. Moses Alexander, protesting against the passage of the bill pending in the Legislature to bar subjects of Japan from land ownership in this State.

The bill passed the House unanimously several days ago and is now before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate.

Senator W. E. Borah, who is in Washington, has also sent telegrams to the Legislators and to Gov. Alexander, asking them not to embarrass the Government at this time.

In a telegram to the members of the Idaho Legislature, Senator Borah said in part:

"I am sending this at the earnest request of the State Department. This bill is causing the Government deep concern. I suggest that only for the most substantial and imminent reasons should we embarrass the Government, particularly at this time. In this critical hour we ought not to exercise our State rights unless the situation compels us to do so."

"I have taken the liberty to assure the President that neither the Legislature nor the people of our State would want to add to his task at this juncture of our foreign affairs other than for vital and controlling reasons."

The Idaho Daily Statesman, quoting a telegram from Senator Borah, printed with his authorization, says: "Secretary Lansing and Mr. Borah paid a second call, Thursday night, at Senator Borah's residence in Washington, and represented that Tokio fears the enactment of such legislation at this time may so incense the Japanese people as to force the Government in self-preservation to identify a willingness to register by force of arms its protest against the Idaho bill."

Last Two Days of Big Sale.

510 Men's Overcoats and Suits, \$5.95. The "Barred Zone" campaign. They were the British steamers Ewonite and Ravenbourne, the Norwegian steamers Portia and Heckla, the Spanish steamer Algorta and the Belgian steamer trawler Marceille. Three members of the crew of the Ravenbourne were lost.

(Continued on Second Page.)

ST. LOUIS'S SAILING DEPENDS ON U. S. ORDER TO-MORROW

American Line Expects Washington to Give Instructions Permitting Departure.

Unless advice are received from the State Department or the President to follow the instructions in the German note limiting the number of American vessels in transatlantic traffic and specifying how they shall identify themselves, what courses they must follow and what ports they must enter, the International Mercantile Marine will not start the American liner St. Louis out of this port to-morrow.

P. A. S. Franklin, President of the International Mercantile Marine, said this afternoon he had received assurances from Washington that the matter of the St. Louis was taken up at the meeting of the Cabinet to-day and he expects instructions from the State Department which will permit the liner to start to-morrow under the protection of the United States Government. No intimation has reached Mr. Franklin as to the character of the instructions he has been advised will be forwarded by the State Department.

"Supposing when the time comes for the St. Louis to sail to-morrow you have not heard from the State Department?" Mr. Franklin was asked.

"That is a remote probability," he replied. "I expect to hear from the State Department, but if no word has come to-morrow at sailing time we shall have to take care of the situation just as it presents itself."

MAILS TO EUROPE TO BE KEPT MOVING.

A despatch from Washington this afternoon announces that Postmaster General Burleson has decided to continue forwarding mail to Europe despite the German submarine threat. This decision was reached after a cabinet consultation, and it gives rise to the belief that the United States Government will advise the International Mercantile Marine to strike the American liners according to German instructions, by barred zone and lay a course through the danger zone for Falmouth. It is not believed that the Post Office Department will attempt a transatlantic mail service without assurances of safety.

The American liner New York will leave Liverpool for this port to-morrow. The New York will not be molested, according to the German ultimatum, which gives neutral vessels until Feb. 5 to get out of the danger zone around Great Britain. The New York will be outside that zone on Monday.

The French liner Rochambeau, scheduled to sail to-morrow for Bordeaux, will leave on time unless orders to the contrary are received from France. She has looked seventy-five first-class passengers and none has cancelled passage thus far. The Cunard liner Armania and the White Star liner Adriatic will leave for Liverpool Saturday or Sunday with cargoes, but it is not probable that

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PLANS TO MEET THE CRISIS ARE PLACED BY PRESIDENT BEFORE OFFICIAL ADVISERS

Official Washington Believes Break Is Coming and Attributes Delay to Taking of Measures to Safeguard 3,000 Americans in Germany.

SOME AUTHORITIES HINT AT BOLD PEACE STROKE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—Up to the time the Cabinet assembled this afternoon there had been no outward change in the submarine crisis. The majority of the members went to the White House uninformed of President Wilson's plans.

President Wilson came from the White House to his Executive office and entered the Cabinet room shortly after 2.30 o'clock. Secretaries Lane, Redfield, Baker and Postmaster General Burleson arrived about the same time. Secretary Lansing reached the White House a few moments later and the balance of the Cabinet soon followed.

The President took with him an envelope which may be the text of his decision to be considered by the Cabinet.

SOME SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

Before the Cabinet met there were the following significant developments:

The Navy Department clamped the lid on all news regarding movement of this country's ships of war.

The War Department ordered additional guards placed about the Panama Canal "as a precautionary measure."

Senator Poindexter introduced a resolution calling for an appropriation for 100 submarines additional to those authorized in the regular. He also asked for \$4,000,000 to equip United States yards for building them.

In some quarters it was expected that an announcement of the President's decision would follow the meeting of the Cabinet. Officially it was stated, "Nothing has gone forward to Germany yet," but this was interpreted to mean that no word in the nature of a demand or announcing the actual decision of the Government had actually been sent. Another interpretation was that the Administration had not communicated with Ambassador von Bernstorff since he had presented Germany's announcement of a resumption of ruthless submarine warfare.

The statement that the American steamship line might be given instructions, which it has requested, as to permitting its ships to sail "by to-

Six More Ships Sunk in Second Day of Ruthless U-Boat War

LONDON, Feb. 2.—Six more ships were reported sunk in the second day of Germany's new "barred zone" campaign. They were the British steamers Ewonite and Ravenbourne, the Norwegian steamers Portia and Heckla, the Spanish steamer Algorta and the Belgian steamer trawler Marceille. Three members of the crew of the Ravenbourne were lost.

The Portia was a steel screw steamer of 1,127 tons gross, the property of J. Lund & Co. of Bergen.

The Heckla was a steel screw steamer of 950 tons gross, owned by William Hansen and registered at Bergen.

The Algorta was a steel screw steamer of 2,117 tons gross, owned by the Sota and Anzar Navigation Company of Bilbao, Spain.

The Marceille was a steel screw steamer of 219 tons; owners, Pecheurles A. Vapour of Ostend, Belgium.

The Ravenbourne and the Ewonite are not listed.